

Message

From: John.Stroiazzo@glencore.ca [John.Stroiazzo@glencore.ca]
Sent: 4/2/2018 10:55:30 PM
To: Cirian, Mike [Cirian.Mike@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Zinc Air battery goes caput

Sure did, as always the days off are short

Same to you....

May is coming up quick, see you soon

John

From: Cirian, Mike [mailto:Cirian.Mike@epa.gov]
Sent: April-02-18 6:52 PM
To: Stroiazzo, John (Toronto - CA) <John.Stroiazzo@glencore.ca>
Subject: RE: Zinc Air battery goes caput

I do remember, Thanks for the email.

Hope you had a great Easter.

Mike

Mike Cirian, PE
Libby On-site Project Manager
US EPA
108 East 9th Street
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-6194 Office

From: John.Stroiazzo@glencore.ca [mailto:John.Stroiazzo@glencore.ca]
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Cirian, Mike <Cirian.Mike@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Zinc Air battery goes caput

Hi Mike

FYI on this news article. We met this fellow at the school public meeting, not sure if you remember him.

John

From: Steve Wright [mailto:swright@cfaluminum.com]
Sent: April-02-18 6:44 PM
To: Stroiazzo, John (Toronto - CA) <John.Stroiazzo@glencore.ca>; Driscoll, Cheryl (New York - US)

<Cheryl.Driscoll@glencore-us.com>

Subject: Zinc Air battery goes caput

This is an article about the ViZn battery company that Howard Wilkins was involved with. Howard was the older gentleman who used the walker and wanted to build batteries in the potrooms. Looks like this company has lost their investors

Steve

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Columbia Falls battery firm lays off workforce

VIZN ENERGY

By CHRIS PETERSON

Hungry Horse News

ViZn Energy, a Columbia Falls company that makes industrial- sized batteries the size of storage containers, laid off its workforce earlier this month.

In November, a federal tax lien was issued against the company for just over \$1 million, according to county tax records.

The company furloughed more than 60 workers on March 16.

The layoffs mark a serious bump in the road for a company whose future was promoted as being bright.

The company had been named one of 15 Montana companies to watch in 2017 by the Montana High Tech Business Alliance. The company was founded in 2009 as Zinc Air, but there have been leadership changes recently. In January, the company announced that Stephen Bonner, who became chairman of its Board of Directors on Jan. 1, had also assumed the role of president and interim CEO following the resignation of Ron Van Dell.

Bonner was a director as well as president and CEO of Cancer Treatment Centers of America for over 13 years. In addition to ViZn, he is currently an adviser to four private equity firms

as well as an entrepreneur in residence at the Harvard Business School, according to the company's website.

A woman who answered the phone at the company Friday said Bonner was not immediately available for comment.

The company has claimed over the years that its battery technology, which is designed to be used with solar- or wind-powered systems as an energy storage solution, was superior to other technologies because it was environmentally friendly.

A single battery is the size of a shipping container. It consists of two large tanks of liquid electrolytes, pumps and a "battery stack" of patented zinc membranes that store the energy. The technology has several advantages over other industrial-sized units like lead acid, lithium ion or molten sodium batteries, claimed former ViZn President and CEO Craig Wilkins during an open house in 2016.

Wilkins is no longer with company, but was one of the founders and is still an investor. Contacted Friday, he was hopeful other investors could be brought on board to keep the company operational.

He said a key investor had left the company, though he declined to say who that was.

Chris Peterson is editor of the Hungry Horse News

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